

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
U.S. Serial No. 10/015,338
Filed: December 11, 2001

ELECTION

The Examiner maintains that the application contains claims directed to twelve patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. Applicants hereby elect with traverse to prosecute the invention of Species X (Figures 10, 11a, 11b, 12a, 12b, 13a, 13b, 14, 15a-15h, 16, 17, 17a, 18a, 18b, 19a, 19b, 20a-20c, 21, 21a, 22a-22d, and 23-29). Claims 1-10, 13-23, 25-35, 51, 52, and 58-63 are directed to Species X.

The Examiner has failed to show that a different field of search would be required for Species I-XII and, at least for this reason, has failed to establish sufficient cause for requiring the election. *See* MPEP 808.02. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the election requirement and examination of all of the species on the merits. Moreover, should the Examiner's search fail to uncover prior art applicable to the elected Species X, Applicants assume that the Examiner will expand the scope of his search to cover the non-elected Species.

PETITION FOR ONE-MONTH TIME EXTENSION

To the extent necessary, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) (1998) assignee hereby petitions that the period for responding to the Action mailed on November 18, 2002 be extended for one month, up to and including January 21, 2003. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$110 to cover the appropriate fee for this extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
U.S. Serial No. 10/015,338
Filed: December 11, 2001

Respectfully submitted,



Kristin L. Johnson
Reg. No. 44,807
ATTORNEY FOR ASSIGNEE

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
Suite 2800, 1100 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4530
(404) 815-6389